AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification

Please substitute the following amended paragraph(s) and/or section(s) (deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and added matter is shown by underlining):

At page 19, line 33 to page 20, line 15, please replace the paragraph with the following.

Because of their small size, the primary particles tend to form loose agglomerates due to van der Waals and other electromagnetic forces between nearby particles. Nevertheless, the nanometer scale of the primary particles is clearly observable in transmission electron micrographs of the particles. The particles generally have a surface area corresponding to particles on a nanometer scale as observed in the micrographs. Furthermore, the particles can manifest unique properties due to their small size and large surface area per weight of material. For example, TiO_2 nanoparticles generally exhibit altered absorption properties based on their small size, as described in copending and commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/962,515, now U.S. Patent 6,099,798, entitled "Ultraviolet Light Block and Photocatalytic Materials," incorporated herein by reference.

At page 23, lines 14-21, please replace the paragraph with the following.

While conventional silica can be used to form the colloidal silica, silica particles produced by laser pyrolysis with or without additional heating are ideally suited for the production of colloidal silica. The production of nanoscale silica by laser pyrolysis is described in commonly assigned and copending U.S. Patent Application 09/085,514, now U.S. Patent 6,726,990, entitled "Silicon Oxide Particles," incorporated herein by reference.

At page 24, lines 3-15, please replace the paragraph with the following.

The polishing compositions can include other components to assist with the polishing process. For example, the polishing composition can include additional abrasive particles combined with the aluminum oxide. Suitable abrasive particles are described, for example, in copending and commonly assigned U.S. patent application serial No. 08/961,735, now U.S. Patent 6,290,735, entitled "Abrasive Particles for Surface Polishing," incorporated herein by reference, and in U.S. Patent 5,228,886, *supra*. When using additional (non-aluminum oxide) abrasive particles, the polishing composition preferably includes from about 0.05 to about 10 percent additional abrasive particles.

At page 29, lines 4-14, please replace the paragraph with the following.

The particles produced by laser pyrolysis had a dark color, evidently due to the presence of carbon associated with the particles. The carbon can come from the ethylene used as the laser absorbing gas. The dark color was removed by heating as described in Example 2. The production of carbon coated nanoparticles is described further in copending and commonly assigned patent application Serial No. 09/123,255, now U.S. Patent 6,387,531, entitled "Metal (Silicon) Oxide/Carbon Composite Particles," filed on July 22, 1998, incorporated herein by reference.